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this month

Keep on Reading

mong the things that I love about this job are the texts I get from friends who are expecting out-of-town company. "Where should I take them," they want to know. This is when I get to recommend the new plays, gallery shows or special menus at some of our beloved restaurants. Daily I receive announcements about these things and often our staff gets to experience some of them. Among many things, it instills a wonderful hometown pride.



But as I sat down to write this, Governor Larry Hogan announced a whole array of initiatives to prevent the spread of coronavirus across our state, including the closures of bars, restaurants and gyms. We are all social distancing.

A regular part of my day now is deleting items from our calendar. At home,

I have a high school senior eager for his baseball season to resume and a college daughter who has been sent home from her study abroad program in Ireland.

This pandemic reminds us that no matter how much we prepare or plan, there are things that we can't control. There are things that we never control.

But our staff will offer you this: stories to take your mind off the news. We have a beautiful spring fashion spread styled by our art director Ebony Brown and worn with pizzazz by boxer Franchón Crews-Dezurn.

As we hunker down in our houses, we have a beautiful house in Annapolis to inspire you. We look back in history as The Associated celebrates its 100th anniversary and Calvert Hall College High School celebrates its 175th. And we take a peek into four new Baltimore area restaurants and stir up a cocktail to help you get through this time of uncertainty.

Each month, we curate a calendar of events for our readers. We include a calendar in this issue as well, even though at press time many of these events were in limbo. My advice: Mark the events that interest you and then check on the organizations' websites for rescheduled dates.



We may not be able to do much now. But maybe the trick to getting through this time is to figure out the things we really want to do when we can. Life will return to normal, and when it does, it will be all that more joyous.

Most of all, be safe and be healthy. Happy reading.

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JESSICA GREGG Editor jgregg⊚midatlanticmedia.com







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Spring Fashion is here!

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ART DIRECTOR/STYLIST: EBONY BROWN PHOTOGRAPHER: DAVID STUCK MODEL: FRANCHÓN CREWS-DEZURN HAIR STYLIST: MILROY B. HARRIED MAKEUP ARTIST: ASHLEY CALLAWAY LASH ARTIST: GIRLKIN LASHES SHOOT ASSISTANT: ADRANISHA STEPHENS





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Erica Rimlinger "Hiking Wonderland"

Erica Rimlinger began her writing career as a journalist in Washington, D.C., at ABC News, "America's Most Wanted" and Congress Daily. Now a freelance journalist and part-time fundraiser, she writes frequently for *The Jewish Times* and *Baltimore*'s *Child*. Erica lives in Towson with her husband, Kevin, and snarky teenaged son, Max. You can find more of her work at ericarimlinger.com.



Charlotte Safavi "Ahoy Annapolis!"

Charlotte Safavi is a national magazine writer and stylist. Her work has appeared in many publications, including House Beautiful, Better Homes and Gardens, Southern Home, HGTV Magazine, Luxe Interiors + Design, Milieu, Romantic Homes, Cottage & Bungalows, Small Room Decorating and more. Her essays have been published in outlets such as The Washington Post Magazine, The U.K. Sunday Times Travel Magazine and The Economist. Her periodic Huffington Post blogs have been also featured online at The Wall Street Journal, National Public Radio and USA Today. Though born in London and educated at Oxford University, Charlotte's heritage is Persian and she resides in the Alexandria, Virginia, with her husband and son.





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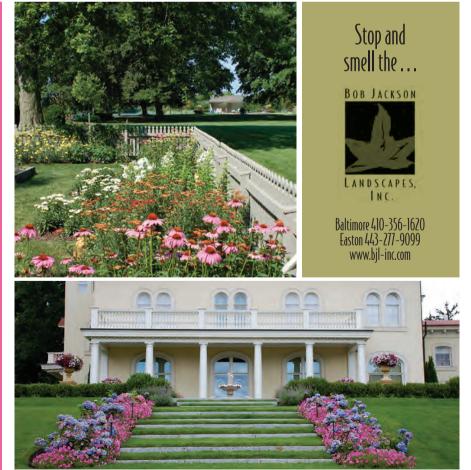
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PUBLISHED BY MID-ATLANTIC MEDIA

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Baltimore STYLE (USPS: 021-572) is published nine times a Mid-Atlantic Media, 11459 Cronhill Drive, Suite A. Owings Mills, MD 21117, Annual subscription price is \$15; for subscriptions, renewals or change of address, call 410-902-2300 (Baltimore). Periodical postage paid at Baltimore MD and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Baltimore STYLE, 11459 Cronhill Drive, Suite A. Owings Mills, MD 21117. baltimorestyle.com

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This Is Bananas!

We don't know about you, but we could use a cocktail right now. We asked our beverage writer Ginny Lawhorn to stir up a bananathemed recipe for us. She created this tasty treat—and offers alternative instructions that use what you have on hand.

baltimorestyle.com/this-is-bananas

Need a Break?

We have to take care of ourselves during this time. Here are some self-care apps that will help you meditate, relieve stress and otherwise cope.

baltimorestyle.com/6-mindsetapps-to-try-this-year



ADDREW NACI

Inspiring Digs

Did you miss this story in last month's Style? Artist Julia Yensho turned a former Sons of Italy lodge into an art gallery—and her home. Get some inspiration from this art-filled house.

baltimorestyle.com/work-of-art

Home with Kids and Need More Ideas?

From our sister publication, *Baltimore's Child*: Sara Warfield, the mom of an adorable preschooler, has put together this handy list of online resources for fellow parents. (*Full disclosure: We've been watching The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore's penguin cam.*)



baltimoreschild.com

Check **BaltimoreStyle.com** for regular updates, life hacks and other encouraging stories this month.

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As we went to press, organizers were canceling many events in an effort to prevent the spread of coronovirus. As such, we only included events during the latter half of April. However, please call ahead or check websites before you go to any event.



APRIL 30 Fair Farms Pizza & Pint Night

A dollar from every pint and pizza sold will benefit Fair Farms, a campaign advocating for an equitable and more sustainable food system. UNION Craft Brewing, 6-10 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. **fairfarmsnow.org**



APRIL 14-19 'SUMMER: The Donna Summer Musical'

This musical tells the dramatic story of famed singer Donna Summer's final concert. Enjoy renditions of her hit songs as you follow the meteoric rise and descent of her career. The Hippodrome Theatre, 8 p.m. \$73-\$119. **baltimore.broadway.com**

APRIL 15 Floral Design Workshop

Whether you're hosting a party or decorating your home, floral arrangements are key. Learn from experts how to make the perfect design. Materials provided, but you're invited to BYOB. Everyday Rosé Events, 6:30-7:30 p.m. \$65. **everydayroseevents.com**

APRIL 17 'Golden Girls' Night

Make a ceramic goodie using stencils inspired by hilarious quotes from the classic sitcom. Plus, a cheesecake dessert bar and bingo. BYOB for guests 21 and over. The Pottery Stop, 7-9:30 p.m. \$7 (pottery project sold separately). **thepotterystop.com**

APRIL 17 Where is Everybody?

Many scientists agree that extraterrestrial life exists. If so, then why haven't they found us yet? Hear possible explanations at this fun and informative event. Baltimore Under-Ground Science Space (BUGSS), 7-9 p.m. \$5. **bugssonline.org**

APRIL 18 Fort McHenry Field Day

Join the National Aquarium's Conservation team as it removes debris from the wetlands, maintains the rain gardens and more. Data collected will support Project Clean Stream. National Aquarium, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. **aqua.org**

APRIL 19 Sunday Trail Running

Calling all runners and nature enthusiasts. Log your miles on this scenic trail along Otter Point Creek, and make a friend or two while you're at it. Register online. Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, 10-11 a.m. Free. **otterpointcreek.org**



APRIL 24 2020 Charm City Bluegrass Festival

Stomp your feet and clap your hands to the country's best bluegrass acts at this much-anticipated, two-day festival. Kids 10 and under get in free. Druid Hill Park, 3 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. on Saturday. \$40-\$70. **charmcitybluegrass.com**





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■ APRIL 19 Earth Fest

The Jewish Museum of Maryland celebrates 50 years of Earth Day. Join the staff for a variety of family-friendly activities, including expert-led workshops and arts-andcrafts projects using recycled materials. Jewish Museum of Maryland, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$4-\$10. **jewishmuseummd.org**

APRIL 20 Jazz in the Stacks

Before you check out that book, sit and stay awhile for this free, intimate jazz concert. Presented in partnership with Contemporary Arts Inc. Enoch Pratt Free Library, Reisterstown Road Branch, 6-7 p.m. Free. **prattlibrary.org**

APRIL 21 Crab Basket Paint & Sip: Federal Hill

Paint a design of your choice on an authentic crab-basket lid. Materials, musical entertainment and step-by-step instructions are included. Food and drink sold separately. Ropewalk Tavern, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$40. Register online. **tcstudios.org**

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APRIL 18 The Sicilian Tenors Over Italy

A trio of top-notch tenor voices put on a live concert performance, set against images of soaring Italian vistas on the IMAX screen. Maryland Science Center, 7-9:30 p.m. \$35. **mdsci.org**



More than 50 local artists come together to sell their goods at Charm City Craft Mafia's 13th annual craft fair. Join in for a day full of fun, food and shopping. Space 2640, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. **charmcitycraftmafia.com**



APRIL 22 Bela Fleck and Abigail Washburn

Known as the "king and queen of the banjo," this genre-bending duo is bringing their talents to the Gordon Center. The Gordon Center, 7:30 p.m. \$40-\$70. jcc.org/gordon-center

APRIL 23 Jazz Night Thursdays

This weekly performance showcases Baltimore's best jazz acts, set in Hotel Indigo's stylish cocktail lounge. Sit back, sip and enjoy. Poets Modern Cocktail and Eats, 6-9 p.m. Free. **baltimoreindigohotel.com**

APRIL 23 In the Stacks

Featuring local ensemble Musica Spira, this performance in the stunning George Peabody Library celebrates the accomplishments and struggles of women musicians in the 17th century. George Peabody Library, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. **inthestacks.org**

APRIL 24 CreativeMornings Baltimore

This monthly breakfast lecture series follows two core principles: Everyone is creative and everyone is invited. Listen, discuss and get inspired. This month's theme is purpose. Enoch Pratt Free Library, Central Library, 8:30-10 a.m. Free. **creativemornings.com**

■ APRIL 25 Marquee Ball: The Golden Ticket

Creative Alliance is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a Willy Wonka-inspired bash. Indulge your sweet tooth as you enjoy roaming performers, a silent art auction and plenty of desserts. Creative Alliance, 8 p.m. \$75. **creativealliance.org**

THROUGH APRIL 26 'Where We Stand'

A thought-provoking play from writer Donnetta Livinia Grays looks at how indebted we are to each other. The audience will be called upon to determine the fate of one character, which means the play's outcome will could be different at each performance. Center Stage, times vary. Tickets start at \$25. **centerstage.org**

APRIL 27 Music Adventures: Bach and Friends

Enhance your appreciation of classical music with this one-of-a-kind class, featuring meet-and-greets with BSO musicians, as well as a mock audition. Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, 6 p.m. \$30. **bsomusic.org**

APRIL 29 BISC Harbor Tour

The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center welcomes you aboard the Raven to enjoy food, drink and an educational, waterside tour of the Port of Baltimore. The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center, 4:45-7 p.m. \$65. **baltseafarers.org**

THROUGH MAY 3 'Cry it Out'

Two Long Island mothers approach modern-day motherhood in Molly Smith Metzler's comedic play. Metzler is the award-winning writer of "Shameless" and "Orange is the New Black." Everyman Theatre, times vary. Tickets start at \$25. **everymantheatre.org**

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Nest Egg

The scenario is a familiar one: A married couple bought a \$300,000 home in which to raise a family. Now the kids are gone, the parents are in their 60s and they have \$150,000 equity in that home.

That equity can be integrated into an income strategy, says mortgage specialist Steven J. Sless, who works with Primary Residential Mortgage.

His office works solely on reverse mortgages, which used to be seen as "desperation loans or loans of last resort," Sless says. But as boomers age and employment-based pensions decline, homeowners are more readily considering them.

Tom Selleck even pitches them in TV ads.

Nationwide, 75 percent of seniors' net worth is in home equity. Getting that equity can be helpful in retirement. But how does a reverse mortgage work?

First, homeowners must be 62, the home must be a primary residence, and the owners must have 50 percent equity in the product. With a reverse mortgage, the original loan is paid off and a new loan is issued for up to half of the original mortgage. Homeowners then can receive a lump or monthly payments.

Borrowers can defer payments until they move from the home or through their estate after death. Many clients take out loans for a fixed period of time, until they turn 70, for example and then collect social security.

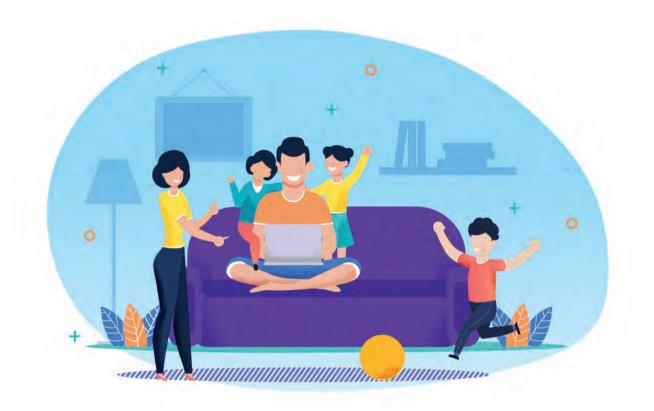
Federal law enacted in 2012 prevents borrowers from getting underwater with reverse mortgages. Homeowners don't have a mortgage payment, for example, but still have to pay taxes and homeowners' association fees and budget accordingly. That was one area in which they got in trouble, says JP Krahel, associate professor of financial accounting at Loyola University Maryland's Sellinger School of Business.

For seniors who need more cashflow, there are a range of options, all of which are available to other ages groups as well, he says, including second mortgages, home refinancing, the option of downsizing into a smaller home and also the gig economy.

"Maybe your Uber driver is a retired person," Krahel says. And, yes, homeowners could take out a reverse mortgage. He recommends that seniors do their homework, make sure they pursue FHA-insured loans and work with a reputable company.

"Understand what you're getting and what you're giving up," he says. "Reverse mortgages are kind of like a firearm. If you know what you're doing, they are very useful."

-JESSICA GREGG



Family Life 🗾

Note: As we went to press, Maryland public schools were closed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. At that time, we ran this story online. We are running it here in our magazine, because it includes good tips for working from home with sick children, during blizzards or on any day.

The new normal began March 16. Maryland's public schools were closed, and many companies as well as state offices sent their workers home to telecommute.

For the average parent, his or her office space may be the dining-room table, real estate that has to be shared with a third-grader working on math or a seventh-grader creating a PowerPoint.

It's the day-to-day in a state of emergency declared to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

"Everyone is in the same boat, and it's going to take some trial and error," says Amy McGinn, a lecturer on educational technology at Loyola University of Maryland and a mother two young girls.

Schedules are a must

First, remember that kids are used to schedules and they are growing up in a world that includes online learning. But they also have shorter attention spans than we do. Even high schoolers can struggle with executive function or knowing what to do when.

These days at home need structure and that needs to come from the adults, McGinn says. Make sure the day is set up so that when adults are most busy, kids are doing their schoolwork.

Set a timer for 25 minutes of quiet work, McGinn says. Use an online timer or even your stove or microwave so children can see how much time they have left.

Lower the expectations

Kids will come home with weeks of lessons today, McGinn says, and "they may not happen perfectly." Remember that work may not happen in the 9-to-5. Answer emails before the kids get up and work after they go to bed, she says. "We have to take the time we can find to get things done," she adds.

Go low tech

Make time for non-tech activities. "Be scientists outside," McGinn says. And do the thing they can't do at school, such as take a 10-minute walk between science and math.

Get help

From your kids that is. Young children love to be helpers and can staple, file or even bring laundry upstairs. "Take advantage of their energy and excitement," McGinn says.

She adds that working side by side in these weeks allows kids to see what adults get to do during their work day. And it could give us opportunities we haven't thought about. McGinn is looking forward to having lunch with her kids every day.

Get bored

"We are so scheduled with our kids these days," McGinn says. It's OK for them to be bored for a short period of time and to be challenged to come up with an activity to do on their own. "That would give them a little bit of ownership and responsibility. And that's growth and learning," she says. –JESSICA GREGG

STITCHED-UP STORIES

True tales that change the way we see clothes

BY JAMIE L. WATSON

Clothes, jewelry, shoes—they're all just meaningless baubles, right? If you're already hearing Miranda Priestley's "blue" speech from "The Devil Wears Prada," let the following books be your cerulean.

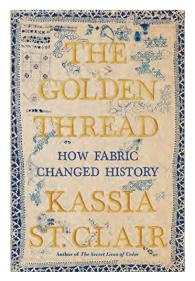
'THE CARTIERS: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE FAMILY BEHIND THE JEWELRY EMPIRE'

I love fashion, but my taste in jewelry runs toward the cheap, mostly because I have never met an earring I couldn't lose. But halfway through Francesca Cartier Brickell's "**The Cartiers: The Untold Story of the Family Behind the Jewelry Empire**," I was scrolling eBay to see if I could find cheap Cartier (spoiler: You can't). All of these books are more than that title would lead you to believe. In the case of "The Cartiers," it's a company history, world history, retail history, an exploration of colonization and royal families and the role of women in all of these. Brickell is a descendant of the founders of Cartier, so she had unmatched access to family records, photographs and her grandfather Jacques, the last Cartier to actually have a stake in the firm before it was sold to a conglomerate. Photographs of jewels, bills of sale and famous customers are sprinkled throughout, including famous Baltimorean Wallis Simpson. What a perfect follow-up to read after visiting the Maryland Historical Society's "Spectrum of Fashion" exhibit, which has some of Simpson's clothes (and runs through October).

THE GOLDEN FLEA: A STORY OF OBSESSION AND COLLECTING

Flea market shopping is more my speed. **"The Golden Flea: A Story of Obsession and Collecting"** by Michael Rips details the denizens of the longstanding Chelsea Flea Market and their wares. Like much of oddball New York, the Flea is gone now, closing in December 2019, the victim of skyrocketing rents in a valuable space. But over its last years, Rips visited the parking garage home, where dozens of vendors sold stuff that ranged from hidden treasures to mostly trash. The characters he writes about are given nicknames, but curiosity and good research skills can identify some of them, such as "Cowboy" who was an old anarchist and ex-roommate of Valerie Solanas (who shot Andy Warhol). Rips is a wealthy tourist in the flea market, and his nascent hoarding tendencies uncover a mystery. How is flea market art appraised versus art in a museum or from a collector? You might not be surprised, but you'll be delighted at the conclusion.





'THE GOLDEN THREAD: HOW FABRIC CHANGED HISTORY'

"The Golden Thread: How Fabric Changed History" by Kassia St. Clair takes clothing down to its barest essence—the fibers and fabric that form it. Arranged chronologically, it begins with mummies who were wrapped in linen, much of which was lost to historical research as early archaeologists were more interested in the jewels in a tomb than the boring old cloth strips. We move through Viking times to lace makers, all the way to space travel and high-tech sportswear. As "Buy No New Clothes for a Year" movements gain momentum, this book could give you all the reason you need for trying that challenge yourself, as you realize that all fiber and fabric come with an extreme environmental cost.

Set aside time to read any of these books. Not because they're long or tedious, but because they're all so packed full of loose threads of information that you'll want to make time to learn more and tie them up.

UNTOLD STORY

JEWELRY EMPIRE

CARTIERS

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Encircling majestic Mount Rainier, the Wonderland Trail is a strenuous hike, even for experienced backpackers.

HIKING WONDERLAND

Grueling switchbacks, breathtaking views, trail legacy

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ERICA RIMLINGER

hen my friend Felicia invited me to join her on the Wonderland, a 96.2-mile trail that loops Mount Rainier in the state of Washington, I tried to say no.

"I can't," I said. But my husband didn't buy it.

"You've always wanted to," he argued. (Yeah.) "You're not getting any younger." (Thanks.) "Felicia is a doctor." (True. And useful.) Finally: "You're running out of excuses."

I was.

Backpack aspirations

Can someone morph into an outdoorswoman after 40 years living comfortably indoors? I'd always wanted to backpack, but the only camping experience I'd had was a childhood summer camp that I considered rustic: We slept in cabins and could bring just one plug-in hair appliance.

Felicia advised me to train for our trek by loading my backpack with 35 to 40 pounds and "getting on the StairMaster for three hours." I loaded my backpack with college textbooks and hiked the hills at Cromwell Valley State Park, succumbing to rigorous self-debate over my life choices. ("There are easier mid-life crises. I could have learned to surf.") Then I'd repeat a few delusions. ("I'm strong! I'm not going to barf!") And then I'd carry on.

My neighbor, an experienced backpacker, worriedly suggested I take an REI class. On the Appalachian Trail trip, I learned how to lift my backpack, filter water and set up a tent. You need a permit for every Wonderland camp. Felicia and I joined forces with three women who Felicia met hiking California's famous John Muir Trail. Now a party of five, we each entered the permit lottery, submitting a range of possible start dates and itineraries to increase our chances of winning the golden ticket.

Felicia's itinerary won, affording us an 11-day trip starting from White River on Mount Rainier's northeastern flank. We could now plan in greater detail and mail food to three ranger stations along the trail. This process of "caching" allowed us to carry just four days of food at a time.

I packed, planned, trained and spent hours at REI. I read backpacking blogs, social media groups, magazines and books. I conducted extensive research into backcountry bear safety until Felicia told me to stop watching bear-attack videos on YouTube.

Before I was ready, it was time to go.

Backpack reality

But only if I could get my backpack to zip, which I could do only by removing most of the clothes I'd packed and wearing them on the plane to Seattle.

I met my trail companions in their Sea-Tac hotel room. We decided our collective trail name would be G-5, like the summit. Sandra and Hilke, the South African women, had conquered mountains on every continent, including two hikes to Mount Everest base camp. Becky completed the 215-mile John Muir Trail every summer for six years. Felicia also solo-hiked the JMT and assisted in two helicopter rescues. Me? I took a class.

Despite my glaringly inferior skills, the G-5 welcomed me warmly, then gleefully ripped open my backpack and removed five pounds of carefully curated gear. Becky tossed my dishwashing soap. Hilke and Sandra laughed heartily at my bear horn before tossing it.

We spent our first night camping under a cathedral of ancient, moss-draped firs. Becky, Hilke and Sandra removed more stuff from my bag, cheering when my pack





The women of G-5; their campsite at Indian Bar

hit 36.6 pounds on Felicia's scale. I did not cheer: They took my shampoo! Their packs weighed 30 pounds. How?

A river runs through it

The hike began with a terrifying river crossing. The bridge amounted to a wobbling log tossed over the water while the river lifted and heaved boulders against it.

Then we climbed through sun-dappled woods with Ewok-forest-sized trees, following the White River's waterfalls up the 4-mile climb. We passed the tree line to meadows exploding with honey-scented wildflowers, paintbrush, lupine, mountain brobont, purple daisies, pasque flower, Aster and more.

On day two we crossed Panhandle Gap, a glacier draped over a steep, narrow ridge and the highest point on the trail at 7,700 feet. The slippery terrain rewarded us with sweeping views south to Mount St. Helens and even the Oregon peaks. The world smelled of juniper and honey and buzzed with bees. Dozens of waterfalls sprang from ledges and glaciers.

The trek

The southeast trail led us through thick umbrellas of Douglas fir, Western red cedar, white spruce and lodgepole pine. We crossed steep Stevens Canyon, where the trail narrowed to 12 inches of unreliable stones that tumbled at the touch.

At semi-civilized Longmire we used spotty Wi-Fi to contact our families, then picked up our food caches at the ranger station. More power bars! I could have purchased a variety pack at least. I foisted them on Sandra and Hilke. They're intrigued by American food, but even they were getting sick of them.

The westside trek began with a beastly, 5.7-mile climb to Devil's Dream. The camp lived up to its buggy reputation, and water was accessible only through a complicated team effort/gymnastics routine.

Near the top of Emerald Ridge, I sat down for lunch. Or rather, I removed my sweat-soaked backpack and sunhat,



The beauty of Klapatche Lake



Solitude and camaraderie combined to make this a memorable experience

After 96 miles of steps, sights, sounds and smells as we climbed, slid and scrambled up and down 25,000 feet, I felt like a backpacker.

sank onto a shaded boulder and declared my morning over. With my eyes closed, I could hear only the strike-scrape of Becky's and Felicia's trekking poles against the glacierground andesite coming up the ridge.

"Only three more," Becky gasped, dropping onto the boulder beside me.

"Switchbacks?" I asked.

"Miles," she admitted.

The ridge afforded a direct look into Mount Rainier's volcanic crater. The Tahoma and Puyallup glaciers glowed icy blue on the mountain's broad shoulders.

The trail, we decided, was planned by sadists. We fantasized aloud about being rescued by rangers in a helicopter.

"Helicopter rescues cost up to \$25,000," Felicia told us.

Only the certainty that my family would never pay \$25,000 to pluck me off the mountain got me over the next ridge.

The vistas

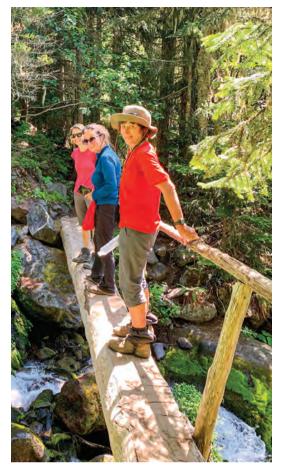
The hike's brutality seeped through every muscle and into the places our resolve resided. Then, like a mirage, St. Andrews Lake appeared in front of us, clear to its rocky bottom. We dropped our packs and jumped into the surreally warm water.

As we floated, an insistent call echoed across the lake, almost like a whining child. We watched, awestruck, as a baby black bear and his mama and sibling lumbered over the ridge. I locked eyes with the mama. You go your way, her look said. We'll go ours.

At our lakeside camp at Klapatche Park, we cooked dinner while watching the ice on Rainier glow in the sunset and reflect in the lake. What had seemed impossible earlier in the day was now impossibly beautiful.

Our hike across the northside was easy. Too easy, we learned. Having reached camp by 10 a.m., we heard that thunderstorms would hit the next day, right as we (and our metal-frame backpacks) would be crossing the high ridge to Sunrise.

Could we hike another eight miles while the sun shone, camp at Sunrise, then descend the last 3 miles—all downhill—to White River and out?



Only if we could secure a permit for Sunrise—and permits were usually gone by noon. Someone had to run. I volunteered and took off.

I reached Sunrise by noon, got the permit, spotted an improbable snack bar, bought five cheeseburgers and met the G-5 at the trail junction. They cheered like lottery winners, mostly over the burgers.

The final miles

The last morning we woke to a misty rain. After 96 miles of steps, sights, sounds and smells as we climbed, slid and scrambled up and down 25,000 feet, I felt like a backpacker.

We packed Felicia's car, then drove to the National Park Inn for breakfast, where I ordered a wall of pancakes. Our mood was jubilant but subdued by our impending goodbyes to each other and our trail. But maybe goodbyes were premature.

"What trail are we doing next year?" I asked.

Everyone spoke at once. \Box





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DRIPPING IN DIAMONDS

Baseball may be postponed for now, but diamonds are still a girl's best friend. Uneek Jewelry's beautiful dangle earrings will literally have you dripping in gems. Made with 18-carat rose gold and 158 round diamonds in total, these earrings light up any outfit. Impatient for the tulips and the cherry blossoms as we hunker down at home? The floral motif of these sparklers will bring the same dazzling color of a spring bloom to any outfit. We're officially smitten! The earrings are part of Uneek's Cascade Collection, and each flower adorning them has a set of diamonds encrusted into its design. Rhoula Monios, a jewelry seller from Meritage Jewelers in Lutherville-Timonium, tipped us off to these beauties. "These earrings remind me of flowers blooming in the spring with a touch of glamour," she says. We couldn't agree more. Created in 1996 by Benjamin Javaheri, Uneek Jewelry takes pride in using the highest quality of stones to make baubles of which we all can be envious. While the company designs and handcrafts their products in Los Angeles, Baltimore shoppers can find these awe-inspiring trinkets right here at Meritage. Uneek Jewelry threader-inspired dangle earrings with floral motif, \$4,995. meritagejewelers.com –CHELSEA LITTLE



BROW POWER

Everything you need to know about microblading BY ADRANISHA STEPHENS

As we all know, there are a dizzying number of brow products and services at our disposal to help us achieve lush and thick brows. But one treatment has recently taken the beauty industry by storm—microblading, the process of tattooing tiny brow hairs with a needle. A minimalist with my beauty routine, I decided to try the service at a comfy beauty salon nestled in Hyattsville.

Microblading is a semi-permanent tattoo technique used to create the illusion of fuller brows, explains Lucy Murrell, owner of Laveda Lash and Brow Boutique, after I settle into one of the salon's cozy chairs. "With this method, we create almost any look or shape, from a very natural light finish to a beautifully bold brow," she says.

So, what should you expect out of the whole procedure, which can take up to two hours? Let me break down how it went for me.

PREP TIME: Before my appointment, I was given a list of instructions from my technician: Do not pick, tweeze, wax or have electrolysis one week prior. Do not use sunbeds or leisure in direct sunlight two weeks before. It's also important not to have a facial or peel two weeks before.

Finally, stop using retinol or certain vitamins—A and E or fish oil—as these are natural blood thinners.

Now, onto the day of: It is suggested that clients refrain from drinking alcohol or taking aspirin or ibuprofen at least 24 hours before their appointment, again because of the blood thinners. I also was told not to exercise on the day of treatment, as sweat can push the pigment out and cause the microblading strokes not to retain. In preparation, I also had to arrive for my appointment without any makeup, with my skin cleansed but not packed with heavy moisturizers or oil-based products.

GO TIME: At the salon, Murrell recommended the best brow shape for my face and then helped me choose a color that matches my natural hair color and skin undertone. Then, she used tools to begin measuring the area around the brows, taking into account my face shape, symmetry and facial features. My brow area was then cleaned, shaped and numbed for the treatment—this took approximately 25 minutes.

(continued on page 77)

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Talk about classic! Here's an undulating update to a basic Baltimore rowhome, with brick bow-front walls, curvy cornice and contrasting stone lintels and foundation. Inside, exposed brick walls extend that historic Baltimore feel, while less than 2 miles away stands the fort for which the street is named: McHenry. And I guess you'll know what to do on those balmy summer B'more nights-retire to your roof deck for that all-star Baltimore view! -JAMES WEISKERGER, NEXT STEP REALTY, 443-928-3295



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How cool are you, anyway? Well, you'll be a lot cooler if you pick up this ultra-mod, Clipper Mill Overlook home wrapped in gorgeous glass and stately stone that, if not a nod to Baltimore Formstone, it should be. But seriously, this is a James Bond bachelor pad, complete with a Kohler Vibracoustic bathtub. So, crank up your collection of Bond soundtracks, and slip into that tub with one of 007's signature Vesper martinis and feel the music—shaken, not stirred. —HEATHER HARTLEY, KRAUSS REAL PROPERTY BROKERAGE, 410-329-9898



You can't discuss Baltimore gems without throwing in one of Clipper City's majestic Victorian dames, like bucolic Roland Park's 1881 "Chatham." Step inside this St. George's Road beauty and step into a time machine, when carvedmahogany woodwork was de rigueur, staircases were grand and fireplaces formidable. Grab a rocks glass of Maryland-style rye (popular in the 1880s), or stir up a Manhattan (invented in the 1870s) and toast the Monumental City by one of your nine fireplaces. –GILBERT D. MARSIGLIA, GILBERT D. MARSIGLIA & CO., INC, 410-321-6111



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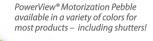
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SHOOT ASSISTANT Adranisha Stephens

> LASH ARTIST GIRLKIN Lashes

Boxer Franchón Crews-Dezurn is a woman for uncertain times

hy do some fighters rise to become champions, whereas others retire without a single win? The trick is confidence, says Baltimore boxer Franchón

Crews-Dezurn, "The Heavy-Hitting Diva." "If you've been training long enough, you might realize that no amount of training will ever give you complete assurance," she says. "You can't teach it; it's an attitude."

The current holder of a super middleweight title, she exudes some major confidence inside and outside of the ring. "I am probably the most successful boxer from Baltimore, male or female, and that's because I don't feel pressure to live up to anybody's standards but mine," she says.

In 2016, Crews-Dezurn lost her pro debut

against another fighter, two-time Olympic gold medal winner Claressa Shields. But she didn't let that setback faze her; she went on to win six fights in a row.

In September 2018, she beat Maricela Cornejo for the World Boxing Council (WBC) Super Middleweight title. And, one year later, she defeated Cornejo a second time, this time capturing the vacant World Boxing Organization (WBO) world title. As always, husband and trainer Glenn Dezurn cheered her on ringside.

"My husband has always been my biggest support system. I'm so thankful for him," she says.

A self-described "creature of energy," Crews admits she sometimes feels the weight of negative energy around her.

44 • BALTIMORESTYLE.COM



Crop jacket, \$110, purple pants, \$85, The H. H. Dezearned; Carousel jewel earrings, \$35, gold snake necklace, \$68, sunglasses, \$15, black and gray beaded bracelet, \$24, Katwalk Boutique; shoe, Akela in orange multi, \$100, Ma Petite Shoe

"With every hardship, I look at it as a lesson and I'm just grateful."

"Being a female in a male-dominated arena is hard, with the disparities and pay and opportunities and promotions," she says. "But with every hardship, I look at it as a lesson and I'm just grateful. I don't complain because it's all part of my journey."

She also has eyes on more than just a shiny boxing prize. Outside the ring, Crews-Dezurn designs clothing. Growing up in Virginia Beach, Virginia, she created clothes for her dolls and pets. When she moved to Baltimore as a middle schooler, along with her mother, her passion for fashion only grew.

"I used to say that I was broke with expensive taste," she says. "Some of the stuff I've always wanted to wear, I couldn't afford or fit it, especially being athletic." She taught herself to sew, buying a \$25 sewing machine off Craigslist and making her own boxing uniforms.

"I didn't like the uniforms that

were provided when I was on Team USA, so I decided to make my own," she says. "When I turned professional, I want to make a statement. I know I am not Beyoncé on the stage, but I'm going to be Beyoncé in the ring. I want that extra flair."

Both ventures are propelling her forward: Crews-Dezurn continues to design clothes inspired by her boxing career. This year, she will also help train the new Olympic boxing team in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"I'm a 12-year alumnus from Team USA. So that's one of the ways I give back and also stay on an elite level of boxing," she says.

And she will finish her degree in small business management. Oh, and hopefully win a few more fights. "I put everything into my brand and my business, and I use that as motivation to go harder," she says. "I always want to win; I always want to get better." Let the fashion continue!



Boxing top, \$75, skirt \$100, The H. H. Dezearned; Cory multicolor earrings, \$55, doubledutch Boutique; shoe, Akela in orange multi, L'Artiste, \$100, Ma Petite Shoe; sunglasses, model's own

orchid bliss

Devo suit roses jumpsuit, \$177, doubledutch Boutique; dangle earrings, \$35, Katwalk Boutique; shoe, Lacie yellow multi, \$110, at Ma Petite Shoe

sporty mama

Gold, black and white faux leather two-piece, \$120, Chickie & Co; Sunshine earrings, orange and black, \$42, doubledutch Boutique; gold snake necklace, \$68, Katwalk Boutique

peace, love and soul

Blue multi-colored blazer, \$298, gold flair leggings, \$388, turquoise and red floral bracelet, \$24, Katwalk Boutique; sunglasses, \$15, gold pendant, \$19, doubledutch Boutique

hello sunshine

Yellow plaid ballon-sleeved shirt, \$94, cream crochet vest, \$219, Dollhouse Boutique; Little Lies yellow/mustard capri pants, \$73, yellow hoops, \$9, doubledutch Boutique; cream woven bag, \$198, Katwalk Boutique; Nicola tan, \$100, Ma Petite Shoe





Ina Blouse, puffed sleeves, \$90, Endless Rose black shorts, \$90, Chickie & Co; light pink fur stud earrings (pictured in hair), \$48, Katwalk Boutique; yellow hoops, \$9, doubledutch Boutique; Neska black, \$139, Ma Petite Shoe



Empty nesters re-feather a home in the city's historic district

TEXT AND STYLING BY CHARLOTTE SAFAVI PHOTOS BY ROBERT RADIFERA



A bricked walkway leads up to the 1916 Georgian-style house located in a historic neighborhood in downtown Annapolis.





he assignment was a fun one: A married couple, who previously lived in Phoenix, Maryland, was looking for a fresh start after their children went off to college. The husband, a graduate of the Naval Academy, has ongoing ties to the area, so the Annapolis Historic District seemed like the right place for the pair to settle. Baltimore-based interior designer Katherine Crosby of Jenkins Baer & Associates oversaw the redesign of this four-story, 4,700-square-foot historic house in downtown Annapolis.

"My clients enjoy a well-appointed home, but they found the process of organizing their existing pieces and designing for a new phase of their life overwhelming," Crosby says. "I took all that off their plate, so they could actually enjoy the selection process."

The 1916 Georgian-style house purchased had good bones: hardwood floors, an open main floor plan and attractive trim and moldings. Yet, everything needed a refresh, whether it was fresh paint, wall coverings or new carpeting. An early challenge was how to tie the home's four floors together.

Clockwise, from top left: the main living room where a CR Laine ottoman serves as a cocktail table; a dining area nook; and Schumacher wall coverings





On this page: Ceiling mounted light pendants by Feiss add brightness to the kitchen, and the rug underfoot is by Dash & Albert; right: The homeowner's office features a Hickory White desk and an Aerin Lauder (Visual Comfort) pendant. The built-in bench pillows include fabrics by Osborne & Little, Cowtan & Tout and Schumacher.

"The home is vertically oriented and a room deep," Crosby says, "with a switchback staircase running from the ground level (basement) to the third floor, providing each story with a view of Spa Creek. Since the stairs are such a key connector, we chose a textural tone-on-tone botanical grass cloth to tie everything together and create a special experience as you move vertically through the home."

The house has two entrances, one from the backyard and parking level in the basement and one from the front door facing the street. Upon entry to the main living level, the floor plan is open, yet spatially divided into a large living room, with wings off of it that include a library nook, breakfast eat-in, formal dining area and galley kitchen.

"The home already had comfortable spaces for small and large gatherings," Crosby says. "We wanted to maintain the open feel without any major architectural changes but add definition and purpose to each space. Our approach was casual but elegant.

And, despite being on the water, the couple did not want the house to have a beach- home feel, she adds.







Crosby made each nook feel intentional and independent with furnishings, area rugs and light fixtures. She used their existing traditional furniture and added some transitional pieces to make the look current but still timeless. For example, the breakfast eat-in features a new custom banquette set about an existing pedestal table; a light fixture with a pleated shade hangs above it.

On the main level, the continuity between the nooks is achieved by



Clockwise, top left: A Rose Tarlow fabric softens windows in the master bedroom; the bedroom beneath the eaves features two beds by Serena & Lily, with bedding by Coyuchi Organics and Legacy Home; and a game is set up in yet another nook, floor lamp by Circa Lighting.

the same curtains, hardware and, of course, palette.

"Throughout, we selected a soft organic palette, using natural linen hues, pale blues, warm ochres and blush tones, pulling from the landscape and water outside as it changes with the seasons," Crosby says. "Every room has a view, and every view is framed by drapery to add a layer of softness," she adds.

The plentiful windows also have motorized woven shades to provide light control, with blackout shades in the bedrooms. The second-floor master suite was reimagined as an elegant retreat, and the third-story attic was converted into a fun, welcoming space with a more contemporary feel for when their daughters come to visit.

"It works beautifully for their new lifestyle," Crosby adds. "Everyone has a private space, yet they can come together in a variety of gathering spaces. They can also easily walk to town, explore and enjoy the offerings outside their home."

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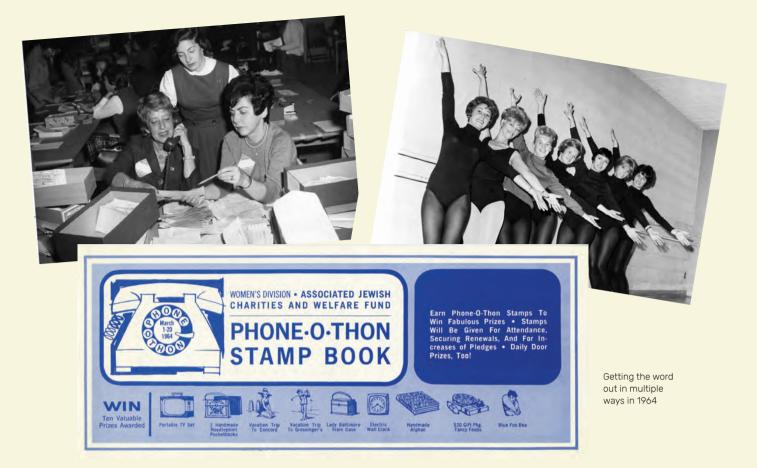
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As The Associated turns 100, some female fundraisers reflect

The Ladies'

BY SUSAN C. INGRAM

hen Carole K. Fradkin, a real estate agent and longtime volunteer, was asked to head one of Baltimore's most successful women's fundraising groups, her first response was, "I can't do that, I work!"

The year was 1995, and how times have changed.

Baltimore women have always been at the center of the city's charitable organizations and programs that support its many varied communities. But in 1995, a working professional woman had never led Associated Women, the women's philanthropic arm of The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore. Fradkin was just one of many women who, over the group's 75-year history, have bucked norms and stereotypes to build an organization that raises millions of dollars each year to support The Associated's array of more than two-dozen community programs. From door-knocking to phone-a-thon fundraising and helping immigrants,



By the 1950s, G-Day was making a huge impact.



The mission of encouraging each woman to do her share was embraced.

crisscrossed Baltimore, squired by 460 men as chauffeurs, raising \$45,000 in one day. Known as G-Day or Giving Day, as times changed so did the appeal, moving from door-knocking to a successful phone-a-thon in 1964. Tammie Plant, Women's Campaign

Tammie Plant, Women's Campaign chair in 1996 and president of the Women's Department from 2003 to 2005, raised funds in the 1950s for G-Day. She was just in her 20s. "People would give us \$2 or \$5, and it was a gift. Men were not interested in this, the wives were," she said in 2015's "Voices of Associated Women." In the mid-'50s, women's fundraising efforts went year-round.

That mission of encouraging every Jewish woman to "do her share" was wholeheartedly embraced. In a successful

1949 fundraising appeal for settlers in the new State of Israel, 1,200 women

By 1973, the group, known then as the Women's Division, passed the

children, mothers, the elderly and the abused, Associated Women's philanthropy has been there to light the way.

Women like Fradkin have been stepping up at The Associated since its founding in 1920 as Associated Jewish Charities, before the women's fundraising group existed. Women participated in the AJC's 19 agencies, such as a fresh-air program for Baltimore mothers and babies and the Hebrew Ladies Sewing Society, distributing clothing to needy families. Three months after World War II ended, the women of AJC stepped forward when, in September 1945, Helen Dalsheimer helmed the new Women's Campaign Committee. In its first year, the committee raised \$44,099, about \$630,000 in today's currency.

In an April 1947 letter sent to 7,700 Baltimore women, the Women's Campaign Committee urged each woman to "do her share" and contribute to help post-war displaced European Jews not only in the name of the husband or family, but as individuals.



Door-Bells Are Ringing
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"Door-Bells Are Ringing" from 1962

Annette Cooper is a former Women's Campaign chair and former president of the Women's Department.

\$1 million fundraising mark for its annual campaign. Time marched on, fundraising and programs grew. The Women's Division became the Women's Department in 1995 and then renamed again in 2010 to Associated Women. By 2014, annual fundraising levels topped \$7 million.

For mother and daughter Myra Gold, 82, and Laury Scharff, 57, philanthropy was ingrained through generations. And getting involved was as easy as accepting a friend's lunch invitation, Myra says.

"[My friends and I] were very excited because it was a beautiful house out in the country," she recalls, with a chuckle. "We had lunch, and when we sat down on her porch, she asked us to get involved with The Associated. And, of course, we couldn't say no."

The era was the mid-1960s. Myra was married with children and in her 20s as



the Women's Division was coming into its own.

"I wasn't working, but this turned out to be my job," Myra remembers. "I spent a lot of time doing Women's Division stuff, which was mostly getting other people to join."

By 1987, she was Women's Campaign chair. From 1989 to 1991, she was president of the Women's Division, and the AJC had a new name: The

Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore.

"These were times of big change between women and men. We really felt like we'd made it," she says. "Women were becoming more involved in things, not just Women's Division. There were women on The Associated board," she says. "I was one of the first women on the board. It gave me a bigger picture of the world."

"There are many poor people, people who need all kinds of help. Why wouldn't women get involved?"

Daughter Laury joined Associated Women's Jewish Women's Giving Foundation in 2008. Women joining this giving circle make a pledge commitment, then help select where the money goes. The group focuses on giving to chronically underfunded women's and girls' organizations. In 2016, its 17th year, the JWGF passed the \$1 million giving mark.

"It's a feel-good, educational, humbling experience," Laury says. "We not only learn from reading the grants and the letters of inquiry, we learn about the tremendous need and what these incredible nonprofits are doing to address the gap."

As a young wife, Annette Cooper's first foray with The Associated was through her husband's involvement with the Young Leadership Council. When his mentor asked him to go on a mission to Israel and take his wife, the couple said yes. That was 1973, and since then, they have made 21 missions to countries including Poland, Austria and Morocco.

"On that first mission, they asked us if we would solicit for them. And I said yes. And we've done it all these years," Annette, now 84, remembers.

Annette became Women's Campaign chair in 1993 and president of the Women's Department from 1999 to 2001. "We raised over \$30 million for The Associated campaign every year, and we're still going strong," she says. "There are so many poor people, people who need all kinds of help. Why wouldn't women get involved?"

As women's roles were changing in society in the 1970s and '80s, their roles changed at The Associated. In 1983, Shoshana Cardin broke new ground becoming the first woman to serve as president and chair of the board of The Associated. She also recruited the first professional working woman to chair the renamed Women's Department: Carole Fradkin

Fradkin initially said no because of her job. "And they said, 'That's why we really need you. Because more and more young women are working," she remembers. "And if we can't ask them because they work, we're going to die out."

So, she took the post—the first professional woman to do so. "But let me tell you, I was president for two years, and it was a very busy two years," she says, adding that her family was supportive of her new roles outside of the home.

Now, she's proud of blazing trails for working women and leaving a legacy for the next generation, who she encourages to join Associated Women.

"We work, we raise families, and we work in Jewish philanthropy. And none of it cancels out the other," she says. "They all enhance parts of your life. They're all different, but they're all important—to be a well-rounded happy individual, a giving individual, someone whose life matters. In Baltimore particularly, there's not a better place to be involved." "You keep your eye on the vision,"

she adds. "And you work toward it." Genine Macks Fidler's family has been keeping an eye on the vision for generations.

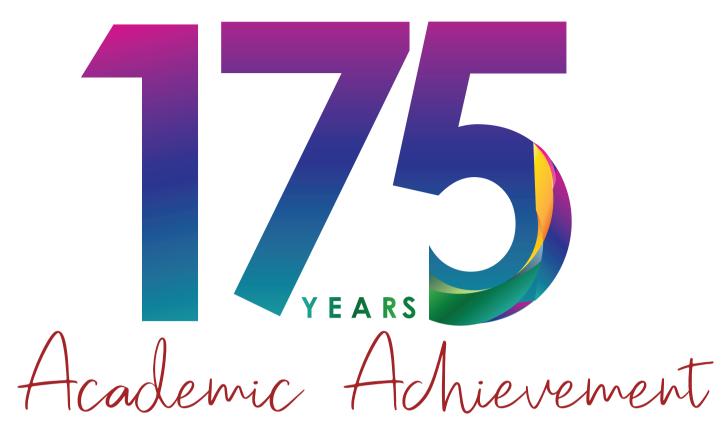
Genine left Baltimore in 1973 to attend Brown University and then law school in New York. When she and her husband returned in 1985, she saw joining The Associated as the most "strategic" way to engage with the Jewish community.

"The Associated is a flex point that is important to the full spectrum of the Jewish community," she says. "I felt that I could have the greatest impact being involved in The Associated."

Genine began her involvement in 1986, working her way up to Women's Campaign chair in 1998, then general campaign chair and then chair of the board of The Associated from 2006 to 2008, only the fourth woman ever to hold the position.

"Since then, there have been two more in less than 10 years. So, this really was generationally an important turning point at The Associated," she says. "Women's engagement at The Associated and in the community was always in contrast to male engagement. Women were always engaged programmatically and deeply connected on the ground to the community. And that accelerated their financial impact."

Susan C. Ingram is a writer and editor living in Randallstown.



Calvert Hall celebrates milestone anniversary

BY JESSICA GREGG

hen Calvert Hall College High School opened its doors on West Saratoga Street in September 1845, the city was a thriving port and railroad hub.

"Everything was dedicated to keeping those two things going," says Francis O'Neill, a research librarian with the Maryland Historical Society.

Baltimore was geographically smaller—its northernmost boundary was North Avenue—but booming. Immigrants from Germany, Austria, Hungary, Poland and other places in central Europe regularly came to the port, with most leaving almost as soon as they arrived to join relatives in Pittsburgh, Chicago and other cities, O'Neill savs.

Those who remained found work on the wharfs or the rails. Until World War I, most of the city's inhabitants had no more than an eighth-grade education.

Yet, the mid-19th century was a time of growth for new schools in this city (see accompanying story). The Episcopal and Catholic churches had seen success opening schools in Europe and New England, and that trend began to extend to other areas in the states.

Calvert Hall was the first school the Christian Brothers constructed in the U.S.; it earned its name from Maryland's founding family and got the distinction of "Hall," because the two-story school, which cost a little more than \$10,000 to build, had the largest hall in Baltimore.

Flash forward: In the 21st century, the area's private school community continues to thrive, including Calvert Hall. Nearly 1,200 students from more than 100 ZIP codes attend the school, now in Towson (the third location in its history). Brother John Kane is in his sixth year as the school's president, arriving at the high school after serving as director of academic support for athletes at Pennsylvania's LaSalle University.

It's not the "same school your grandfather or father went to," Kane says. There are STEM classes and classrooms, other new courses and expanded athletic facilities. Yet, the "notion of community continues," he says, adding that this is the goal. "How do we make sure that continues? You are never at the end of the race."

How is an all-boys school relevant in 2020? It's something that Kane, who has taught at both coed and all-boys schools, has given some thought to as well, noting studies that show a difference in learning style and maturation between boys and girls, particularly at younger ages.

Single-gender schools "create an atmosphere that allows kids to be more themselves," he says. "More of our guys get involved in different things at different times without the fear of being looked down on."

And that's what they need to grow into leaders, he adds.

The school has accumulated quite a roster of alumni, and well-known leaders among them. We highlighted a few. \Box

THE ALUM



Adrian Amos '11 Current player for the Green Bay Packers



Frank Bramble '66 Retired MBNA/ Bank of America chair



Juan Dixon '97 Former NBA player; current head coach of Coppin State University's men's basketball team



Mel Kiper Jr. '78 ESPN analyst



RBC WEALTH

ALBERT HERRING

Brian Kroneberger '85

Managing director, financial advisor at RBC Wealth; radio host at WBAL Radio



Dwayne Milburn '81 Retired military, U.S. Army Bands director



Sam Palmisano '69 Retired IBM CEO



Tom Smyth '77 CEO of University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center



Rodney Williams '02 Co-founder and chief commercial officer of LISNR

CITY OF SCHOOLS

Several of Baltimore's private schools opened in the 1800s (and one before that). Schools were a way that immigrant children could advance in society to higher earning positions, says Francis O'Neill, a research librarian for the Maryland Historical Society.

"The real surprise in Baltimore is not the history of private schools," O'Neill says. "The unusual thing is that Baltimore established public schools to educate children for free."

In fact, some of the city's earliest private schools were founded for impoverished children or to train domestic workers. But as our ideas about education changed, so did Baltimore's private schools. Here are some of the oldest:

- Friends School of Baltimore, coed, 1784
- St. Timothy's School, all girls, 1832
 Boys' Latin School, all boys, 1844
- Institute of Notre Dame, all girls, 1847
- Loyola Blakefield, all boys, 1852
- Oldfields School, boarding school for girls, 1867

- McDonogh School, opened as a military school for boys and now a coed school, 1873
- Bryn Mawr School, all girls, 1885
- Gilman School, all boys, 1897
- Roland Park Country School, all girls, 1900
- Garrison Forest School, all girls, 1910

Love in the Air: Wedding Issue Launch Party

A huge thank you to all who came out to our Wedding Issue Launch Party on Feb. 13. It was a fabulous night celebrating our first annual Wedding Issue, available all year. We could not have done this without our host, Meritage Jewelers, and our amazing sponsors, Gamberdella, Love It At Stella's, Harbor Magic Hotels, Kindly R.S.V.P. Designs, Revival, a Joie de Vivre Hotel, Synchronicity Boutique, Catering By Alan Weiss, and Vaccaro's Italian Pastry Shop-Little Italy. Love was definitely in the air!

PHOTOS BY DAVID STUCK





























To Our Valued Guests

Given the latest news regarding the coronavirus, we thought we should let you know how we are handling the situation at this point in time. Per the governor's order our restaurants will remain open for carryout and delivery only.

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THE GOOD LIFE, **SLICED**

Local dessert maker gets her space

BY CHELSEA LITTLE PHOTOS BY DAVID STUCK

It took Amanda "Mandy" Mack two

years to create her recipe for pie crust. "I recipe tested so many times, it was

just ridiculous," says Mack, who tried the recipes on her grandmother. "When I gave her that last pie, you could just see as she bit into it that this was it. She said, 'Mandy, you got something.' It was one of the first things my grandmother actually gave me the thumbs-up on, so I was like, that's it."

Pie crust is everything for Mack, who has made and sold hand pies around Baltimore for several years. On Instagram, she took orders for "crabbie pies" and showed off drool-worthy brown butter cookies. Her long hope: to one day have a shop. It's about to come true this spring as she opens Crust by Mack in Hampden's Whitehall Mill, the latest marketplace-style offering on Baltimore's food scene.

Amanda Mack

Crust by Mack's petite pies are pint-sized pockets that can vary with seasonal ingredients.



"Once you come to the bakery, you'll see," she says. "You'll know. Once you taste the pie, you'll know why it's called 'Crust."

Start from scratch

"I am from the projects, a very low-income community, and a lot of people don't really make it out," Mack says. "Ownership and investing in your community are so important to me, because I have experienced these things personally. Everything I do is very personal."

She didn't grow up thinking she would be a chef, she admits, but family life—and cooking as part of it—has always been very important to her. Her mother, a single mother who worked a lot, had a catering company for 10 years, and her grandmother was a professional chef and baker. As the oldest sibling, Mack made lunch and dinner for her family. Her family taught her a lot about hospitality, she says.

"I always looked after people. I always fed people," she says. "You're just in the kitchen doing something with your family, but those are memorable times ⁴⁴I always looked after people. I always fed people. You're just in the kitchen doing something with your family, but those are memorable times that you can share with your family in the future. I like to bake to bring me closer to that sense of home.^{??}

that you can share with your family in the future. I like to bake to bring me closer to that sense of home."

Though her love for cooking grew as the years passed, Mack never found herself in traditional culinary school. Instead she worked her way through college to back-of-kitchen roles to management rolls, getting her hands into whatever she could.

"I wasn't a classically trained chef. I didn't go to culinary school," she says. "People were very judgmental, but I never doubted myself. I am always very confident in my abilities."

Add ingredients

Even so, it wasn't until the end of 2017 that Mack decided she wanted to open her bakery. Managing a bakery café in Reservoir Hill, she got to the point where she wanted more control. And pregnant with her youngest child, she realized she wanted to grow a business that also supported her own needs.

"I knew at that moment that I was going

to open a bakery, so I was kind of birthing two babies at the same time," she says.

She started a crowdfunding campaign but two weeks later found out that her mother had breast cancer. Her caretaker nature stepped up again. She forgot about her campaign, raising only \$2,000 out of the needed \$20,000 to start her own bakery.

"That whole year was dedicated to taking care of my mom, cooking her meals, taking her to therapy, taking her to chemo and things like that," she says. "My mom had her bell-ringing ceremony earlier this year, so she is now cancer free."

Roll out the dough

Now Mack is free to pursue her goal of opening a bakery. After all that she has been through, it's a "really big win," she admits.

At the new Crust by Mack, customers should not expect a standard menu, she says. Their favorites will be offered, but some items will vary from day to day. There will also be spices and other ingredients for the home cooks as well as boxed baked goods for shoppers who want to grab-and-go some local sweetness.

"I want Crust by Mack to be just like going to grandma's house for Sunday dinner," she says. That is, tasty, comforting and with some variety.

She held a fundraiser at the World Trade Center to help with opening costs. And she made intricate latticetopped mini pies for March 14, widely recognized as Pi Day.

"Food is how I communicate with people, and I think people see that. I understand what it is like to not have everything be OK all the time," she says, adding that "food has brought us through hard times and happy times. It has been the glue that has held us together."

In other words, it's sort of the crust to our pie. \Box





"Top Chef" contestant Jesse Sandlin, second from left, and her kitchen crew saunter into Highlandtown with a new concept in a familiar space.

HIGHLANDTOWN'S 'TOP CHEF'

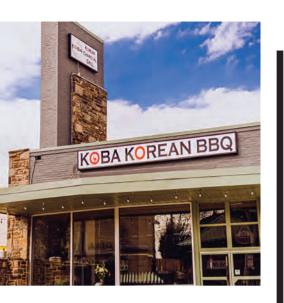
After working at various Baltimore restaurants, chef Jesse Sandlin is opening her own eatery, **Sally O's**, in Highlandtown. Named after Sandlin's grandmother, the former Laughing Pint space is scheduled to debut in mid-April. "It's exciting; it's terrifying," says Sandlin, a former "Top Chef" contestant.

The Baltimore native, who recently helmed the kitchen at The Outpost American Tavern in Federal Hill, spent months renovating the former pub. "I felt strongly that Laughing Pint was such an institution it had to be something new," Sandlin says. "My place had to be a different place with a different vibe and a different feel." She's opened up windows on the South Conkling Street side of the corner building on Gough Street, refurbished the wood bar, and added hand-painted wallpaper in warm tones. "It's a lot brighter, with plants, and more open," she says. "It's very bohemian."

The menu will feature eclectic American cuisine that is seasonally driven and as locally sourced as possible, Sandlin says. "I want to do things that appeal to the people in the neighborhood and encourage people from other neighborhoods to come to Highlandtown and see what else is here," she says.

3531 Gough St., sallyos.com

-SUZANNE LOUDERMILK



BREAKING THE JINX

Koba Korean BBQ is trying to do what several other restaurants haven't been able to do-survive in the Belvedere Square building that once housed Hess Shoes. Despite their efforts, previous restaurants Starlite Diner, Spike Gjerde's Shoo-Fly, and Crush and Demi didn't last long in the multilevel space.

Koba may have the solution with its tabletop grills, where an assortment of meats is cooked from an all-you-can-eat menu during dinner and on weekends. The classic "set" or selection includes strips of beef brisket, pork belly, rib-eye and marinated chicken, among others. Diners can upgrade to add tenderloin and tong galbi (bone-in short ribs).

Chef Jitai Song, an alum of Jong Kak near Station North, is in the kitchen preparing side dishes to accompany the grilled meats, Korean-style fried chicken and other offerings. An à la carte lunch menu of Korean specialties such as dak bulgogi, bibimbap and dumplings in beef broth soup is also available.

The restaurant, which opened March 2, has three private event rooms that are set up for karaoke on the lower level, where a full-service bar is in the works. Maybe this is the niche restaurant that will break the location's cursed reputation.

Koba Korean BBQ, no website or Facebook page at publication time -S.L.

A CLASSY GIN JOINT

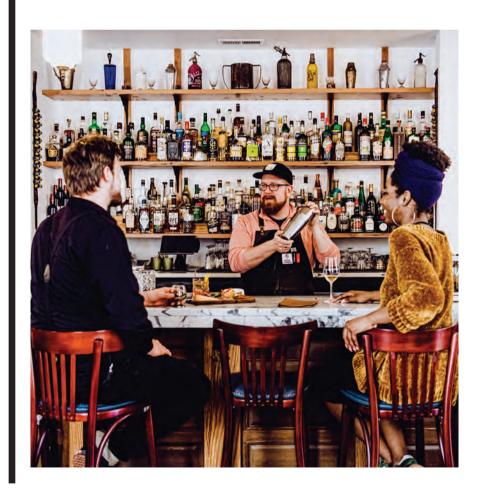
George Washington didn't sleep here, but Eleanor Roosevelt is said to have dined in the 1880s corner building where **Dutch Courage** is now slinging gin-centric cocktails and other libations. Co-owners/bartenders Brendan Dorr and Eric Fooy, who worked together at B&O American Brasserie, even named a drink after the first lady–The Eleanor, featuring Baltimore Spirits Company Shot Tower gin–and are donating \$1 from every cocktail to House of Ruth Maryland.

But that's just part of the charm of the Old Goucher cocktail lounge that is decorated with reclaimed wood tabletops, a red velvet sofa, a quartz bar and a vintage cash register among the crown moldings and marble fireplace. Showcasing gin (130 bottles and counting) made sense to Dorr. "Gin is a classic cocktail ingredient," he says. "It doesn't get the love that whiskey gets."

And while cocktails may be the draw, diners don't want to miss chef Irvin Seo's creative menu listing noshes that can add up to a full meal: an onion dip with fermented onions, quick-cured Norwegian salmon, mackerel pâté, Cape May scallops, an Italian cold cut with shaved egg yolks and Dorr's favorite, roasted sweet potatoes, onions and black garlic sauce. "We're doing great creative food that is flying under the radar," he says.

2229 N. Charles St., Dutch Courage on Facebook

-S.L.





Ball of Sunshine

A Cocktail for Earth Day

With Earth Day upon us (April 22), we are reminded to take stock of the ways in which we can reduce our carbon footprint, be more mindful of our habits and be kinder overall to our planet. In this spirit, we are highlighting two brands, one leading the industry in sustainability and one that is making world-class products locally.

Earth-friendly Sombra Mezcal is a perfect option for both mezcal lovers and those who are a little reticent to make the leap. It is smoky, but not overwhelmingly so, and creates a depth of flavor that makes traditionally sweet tequila-based cocktails more complex and intriguing.

As tequila has soared in popularity among consumers over the last few years, distillers have been forced to reckon with not only a dwindling supply of agave, but also the plant waste created during distillation. Sombra has risen to meet this challenge head-on by converting its discarded agave into adobe bricks, which are in turn used to build subsidized housing in Oaxaca. Sombra's strides in sustainability and community building have inspired other mezcal distillers to take steps to reduce their own carbon footprint while at the same time investing back into their communities.

Don Ciccio & Figli has brought the Amalfi Coast to the East Coast with its diverse and distinctive selection of liqueurs. The recipe for its Mandarinetto orange liqueur dates back to 1948, accenting the Italian origin of both the cordial and the distillers.

Its zing, sweetness and bright aroma make it ideal to enjoy on its own as an aperitif or as an alternative when making a cocktail. Their Ivy City tasting room in Washington, D.C., is beautifully appointed and thoughtfully designed. It is a perfect opportunity to explore all Don Ciccio & Figli has to offer without having to go too far from home.

This bright, vibrant creation brings together these spirits for savory, smoky-sweet sipping. \Box

Ginny Lawhorn is an award-winning bartender at Landmark Theatres, Harbor East, and founder of Baltimore Cocktail Week.

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Brow Power

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TREATMENT: Next Murrell began the needling process, gently implanting a medical grade pigment via featherweight strokes. No actual tattoo machine is used. She used a little handheld tool to draw my new brows manually. It doesn't actually penetrate the skin but just delicately scratches the surface, much like a paper cut. If you feel any discomfort at this stage, the technician will add another quick layer of numbing cream to the area—in my case, three. Lastly, an ointment will be applied to help with the healing process.

AFTERCARE TIPS: The most important product you should stock up on after treatment is sunscreen. Like with other tattoos, sunscreen helps extend the longevity of your brows and prevent fading. Do not get your brows wet for at least a week while they heal, and don't use any makeup for at least a week. Once the skin is mended, it's OK to go back to your normal routine. You'll also need to avoid any picking or scratching, as you can damage your new brows. Throughout the process, they will change color, become flaky and look like they've faded, but this is normal. They'll reveal their final color and shape after a month.

Clients—aka me—are also encouraged to schedule a follow-up appointment four to six weeks after to make sure they are satisfied with the results or if they need little tweaks. Microbladed brows can last anywhere from one to three years, depending on your skin type (the ink fades quicker on oily skin) and products and lifestyle. It's also not the same as getting your brows waxed or threaded. Laveda Lash Boutique charges up to \$450 for each treatment, but prices can vary based on a technician's experience level and location.

FINAL THOUGHTS: For those searching for a more permanent solution to improving the appearance of their brows and are not afraid of a little needle to do so, microblading is a great option. This has been by far one of my favorite beauty procedures, and when it wears off after a year or two, I will continue with the process.



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Karen Graveline

Owner, Design Distillery



In 1998. *designer Karen Graveline* set out to find mid-century modern furniture to complement her urban Baltimore rowhome. This search quickly became a career, and Graveline created a one-stop shop for all things home decor and home renovation. More than 20 years later, she's still going strong. From a quaint storefront on Charles Street to a stellar showroom near the Inner Harbor, Design Distillery continues to bring eclectic tastes to the community.

\mathbf{Q} How did you get into this line of work?

A: After moving into a rowhouse, I discovered what a challenge it is to furnish a home that's only 12 feet wide. Even with my interior design degree from the University of Maryland, it was difficult to find furniture that fit the rooms and my style. When I showed a coworker a set of vintage

teak dining chairs from Denmark that I found on eBay, he told me that I could find more stuff like that for cheap at local auctions. So, I started bidding, buying, cleaning and fixing furniture from the 1950s and '60s, which fit in our house perfectly. The hunt became an obsession, so I rented a space at the Antique Center of Federal Hill and the pieces sold themselves. Q You seem to have a keen eye for mid-century modern-design style. How did you know this style would be so popular?

A: The informal free-form style of mid-century modern furniture just resonated with me. I viewed pieces from that era as simply well-designed objects that would be fun to live with and deserved more attention. I figured there had to be other fans in Baltimore, so I took the "build it and they will come" approach when I opened my first storefront in 2001.

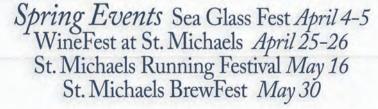
Q What have been some of your favorite pieces over the years?

A: My all-time favorite would be the Womb lounge chair. Eero Saarinen designed it in 1948 for architect Florence Knoll, who wanted a chair that she could really curl up in. The organic design is so inviting; you feel protected like a cradled baby.

Q How do you stay current and fresh in your designs?

A: Our team is passionate about modern interiors, so we always have our design radar on. We scan and share what we find from Instagram, blogs, magazines and places we travel. Manufacturers of modern furniture from all over the world also send us their catalogs and new releases to consider. We regularly attend trade shows in New York and High Point, North Carolina to distill the best pieces from all the latest collections and trends. Instead of jumping from one trend to another, our goal is to seek out good, lasting designs. -ADRANISHA STEPHENS Vol. 31No. 3 STYLE (USPS: 021-572) is published nine times a year by Mid-Attantic Media, 1459 Cronhill Drive, Suite A, Owings Mills, MD 21177. Annual subscription price is \$15; For subscriptions, renewals or change of address. call #40-902-2300. Periodical postage paid at Baltimore MD and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: send address changes to STYLE, 1445 Cronhill Drive, Suite A, Owings Mills, MD 21177. bultimorestyle.com

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